DSP 3.1 Grazing System Water Development

Purpose

1. Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant community.
2. Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity.
3. Improve or maintain riparian and watershed function.
4. Reduce accelerated soil erosion and maintain or improve soil condition.

Applicability

Applies to pastureland where permanent vegetative cover is established and can be enhanced through the use of a planned grazing system. The system operator must follow an approved grazing system plan. The system operator must attend an approved grazing school provided by University of Missouri, in conjunction with NRCS, prior to the district's submittal of a contract for review.

Erosion Requirements

Practice has no erosion requirements.

Specifications

The completed practice must meet the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Critical Area Planting (342), Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding (723), Pond (378), Fence (382), livestock exclusion under Access Control (472), Prescribed Grazing (528), and Water Well (642) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.

Policies

1. Cooperators must have an approved grazing plan prior to contract board approval.
    a. A system may be approved for land where livestock do not currently graze; however, the district must verify that the system has livestock within the first year after meeting the Prescribed Grazing (528) standard and specifications.
    b. After a grazing plan is developed, grazing practices may be installed independently of one another to work towards its implementation.
        1) Cost-share payments will be authorized as each practice is completed, according to NRCS standards and specifications within the grazing plan.
    c. The entire grazing system must meet the standard and specifications for Prescribed Grazing (528) within three years after payment of the first contract or the entire amount of cost-share received must be repaid. The district should give funding priority to cooperators working toward the Prescribed Grazing (528) standard and specifications.

d. The size and number of paddocks will be determined by the grazing system plan, which must be designed for appropriate grazing height and rest periods as listed in the NRCS "Grazing Management Guidelines." The planner and district should encourage the cooperator to develop an effective system that meets the program's and cooperator's objectives, and enables the cooperator to stay in compliance. There is no time limit for adding to existing systems.

2. ***Wells***

   a. It is not required that wells constructed under this practice be utilized solely for livestock watering.

   b. All new wells must be registered according to state requirements.

3. ***Cost-share is authorized for:***

   a. Water source development (well, pond, and/or connection to a public water supply) for a planned grazing system.

   b. The least cost alternative, based on the size and type of water source needed. Consideration must be given to existing water sources. If a water source exists, documentation explaining further development of the current source or need for another source of water must be entered in MoSWIMS.

   c. Pond and well construction for all newly approved grazing systems, in addition to existing systems that meet NRCS standards and specifications for Prescribed Grazing, (528). Construction of a water source will only be allowed on an existing system if paddock numbers are increased or if acreage is added so that the existing water source is no longer adequate.

   d. Connection to Public Water Supply System (PWSS). Includes water meter, backflow preventer valve, labor, and installation costs. Districts that cost-share on water meters must contact the Public Water Supply District (PWSD) to obtain cost-data for water meter installation for that specific PWSD. The district must enter the cost for the DSP 3.1 PWSS Water Meter and Setup component in MoSWIMS. The component cost will need to be updated prior to a contract being developed if the meter installation is in a different PWSD than the previous contract. Written documentation of the PWSD cost data must be scanned into MoSWIMS as supporting documentation prior to submitting the contract for contract review. The state average cost will continue to be used for pipeline, trenching and backfill, and boring costs for the service lines.

   e. Pond reconstruction if deemed the least cost alternative.

   f. Well reconstruction if deemed the least cost alternative.

   g. Critical Area Seeding. Permanent vegetative cover based on the Critical Area Seeding component.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Assistance is limited to 75% of the established county cost, not to exceed the state average cost.
2. Maximum of $95 per acre. The acres to be considered for the maximum will be the acreage within the paddocks served by the water source.

3. Utilize the Practice Limits Detail report in MoSWIMS to ensure compliance with applicable maximums.

Map Requirements

1. Shapefiles from NRCS's Toolkit program must be saved on the district's T:\ drive prior to contract approval. The shapefiles must contain attributes that show the following information that pertains to the contract:
   - Farm Perimeter
   - Acreage Completed under DSP 3.4 and/or DSP 3.5
   - Location of Power Source
   - System Acreage
   - Field Numbers
   - Any other feature that may affect the completed system.

   a. Planned items must be shown and labeled with the fiscal year to be installed.

      - Planned Fence
      - Planned Pipeline
      - Planned Water Source
      - Planned Watering Facility (Specify Tank or Hydrant)
      - Planned Lime Application
      - Planned Seeding Application

   b. Existing items must be labeled with the fiscal year installed and funding source (EQIP, SWCP, etc.).

      - Existing Fence**,** including existing perimeter and cross fences
      - Existing Pipeline
      - Existing Water Source
      - Existing Watering Facility (Specify Tank or Hydrant)

2. A map that displays the completed practice must be scanned and attached as a document type "Map" in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission.

Technical Responsibilities

Technical staff has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy. If a public water supply and water meter is developed as a water source, a Technician II must certify and sign the contract.

Acres Served

Acreage established in permanent vegetative cover within the paddocks where water is delivered that did not previously contain an adequate water source. Heavily forested acreage and cropland are not eligible.

Extent Installed

Acres.

Maintenance Life

10 years.